

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A network management system for discovering information  
2 about a network, comprising:  
3 a plurality of processing nodes;  
4 plural discovery agents on said nodes adapted to discover information concerning  
5 said network;  
6 each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery capability;  
7 each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery assignment;~~and~~  
8 collectively, said agent discovery assignments being a subset of said agent discovery  
9 capabilities; and  
10 said agent discovery capabilities being overlapping and said discovery assignments  
11 being non-overlapping, such that no network device is discovered more than once by  
12 different discovery agents and no duplicate discovery information is generated.

1 Claim 2 (canceled).

1 Claim 3 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery  
2 assignments are based on said discovery capabilities.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent  
2 discovery assignments reflect one or more of data collection service registrations with said  
3 plural discovery agents, agent cost to obtain network information, load balancing among  
4 said plural discovery agents, and assignment churn.

1 Claim 5 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery  
2 assignments comprise one or both of inband and outband discovery assignments.

1 Claims 6-16 (canceled).

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A network discovery agent for use in a data storage network,  
2 comprising:

3 a processing node;

4 discovery capability logic associated with said processing node adapted to determine  
5 and provide agent discovery capability information to a requestor, said agent discovery  
6 capability information being a subset of all discovery information obtainable by said agent;

7 ~~and~~

8 discovery query logic associated with said processing node adapted to implement  
9 discovery queries based on agent discovery assignment information determined from said  
10 capability information; and

11 said discovery queries utilizing non-overlapping discovery assignments, such that no  
12 network device is discovered more than once by different discovery agents and no duplicate  
13 discovery information is generated.

1 Claims 18-20 (canceled).